

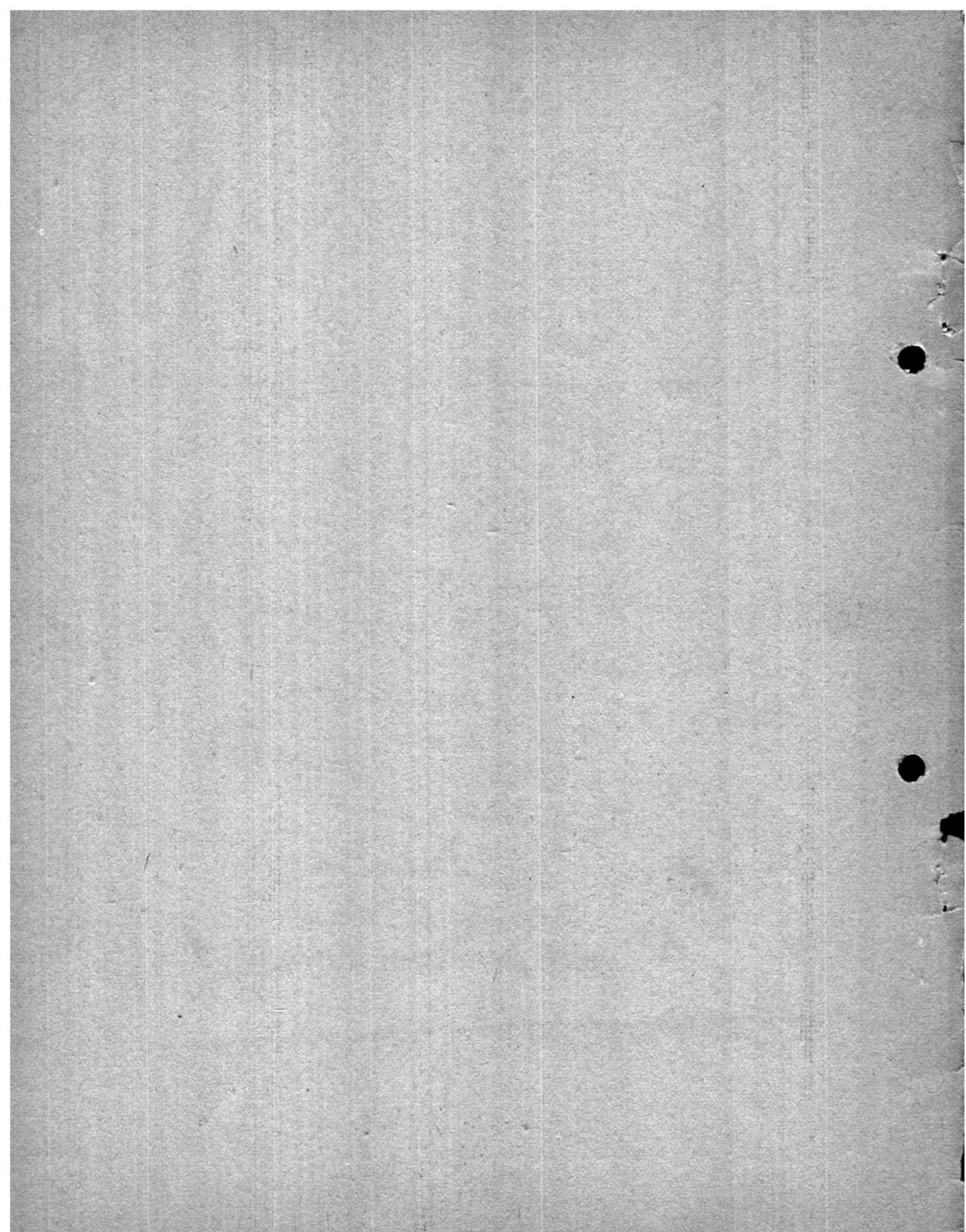
VELD TRAIL

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Message from the
Divisional Commissioner

Read Veld Trails —

★ Keep up to date
with Divisional Rovering!



VELD TRAILS

(The Official organ of Transvaal Rovers)

Vol. 11.

October 1939.

No. 10.

Subscription 2/6 per annum.

Veld Trails is published on the fifth of every month. Contributions should reach the Editor at P.O. Box 631, Johannesburg before the 20th of the month previous to publication.

EDITORIAL LICENCE.

"..... MY DUTY TO GOD, MY KING AND MY COUNTRY"

These are troublous times. The results of years of work in the cause of international peace and inter-racial brotherhood seem to be crumbling and falling down. When this disastrous war is over, we will have to start all over again from the beginning.

These are the times when true Rover Scout spirit is most needed. The less we allow to become undone now, the better start we will have when the rebuilding process has to begin.

Rover Scouts throughout South Africa are asking "What can we do to be of some use?" As yet there are very few practical ways in which we can assist, but there are certain preparations we can make. We can, and must, prepare ourselves for Service, both with the armed forces of our country, and by signing on to the Scout National Service Register and qualifying for the National Service Badge. The response to the National Service Appeal throughout the division has been poor. In addition there has been very little endeavour in any part to undergo training for the national service badge.

In the case of boys whose parents are unwilling to sign their national service forms there is very little left that we can do, but in the case of Rovers, who are old enough to realise the position and who make decisions for themselves, there is still a great deal which could be done to remedy the position.

It is not our intention to suggest that Rovers have not joined up with the National Service Register because they are unwilling to serve. Many of them are already serving in the Active Citizen Force, and the impression is widespread that Rovers so serving could be of no use to the National Service Scheme. Such an impression is completely false. The Boy Scouts' Association is one of the largest public bodies which has offered its services to the Government in time of National Emergency, and it is entirely probable that we may be called upon to perform services as a Movement before affairs have reached the state necessitating the calling up of the entire Active Citizen Force. In such a case we must know what manpower we have, and where it is available. National Service is the duty of every Rover Scout in the Union.

The attitude of mind we choose to adopt in these times can also become a form of Rover Service. We must live bravely; we must try and see the bright side of things and face the position with cheerfulness. Pessimism is the only quality more infectious than optimism, and every act of cheerfulness performed by a member of the Movement is an act of service done.

Although we are, as ever, a non-political body, we must face up to facts. The fresh outbreak of inter-racial feeling in South Africa following the recent Parliamentary crisis is likely to provide a serious set-back to the excellent progress of inter-racial brotherhood in Scouting. For years we have been fighting the completely wrong impression that we are a "British", or "jingoistic" movement. The idea that the primary objects of Scouting are of an international character has never taken proper hold of South Africa.

Above all at this time we must be tolerant. It must still be our earnest endeavour to draw as many Afrikaans-speaking South Africans into the Movement as we possibly can. But in so doing we must make no concessions which will affect our National obligations as Rovers. Once again let us stress the fact that we are non-political. But as Rovers we have promised to do our duty to God, our King and our Country, and we must at this time have a clear exposition of what that duty entails. Our duty to God demands that we should see justice done, both abroad and at home; our duty to the King demands that we hold ourselves ready to play our part in the defence of the Commonwealth over which he rules, and to fight in the cause of justice which the Commonwealth has undertaken; while our duty to our country requires that we do our best to secure racial unity in South Africa without endangering the unity of the Commonwealth.

There we have a summary of our obligations. A body with the ideals outlined above cannot be accused of "jingoism", because those ideals are not only to the advantage of South Africa as a whole, but are those most likely to assist in the restoration of international peace.

The time for trying to please everybody by a none too definite outline of our policy has passed, we hope for ever. Those who would join us under the conditions implied by our Promise are the men we want in Scouting. The others are not worth having, and will never be missed.

C. Llewellyn Cook

EDITOR.

STOP PRESS

ROVER SCOUTS AND THE ACTIVE CITIZEN FORCES

The attention of all Rover Scouts is particularly directed to their obligations in these present times. You are requested to read with care the articles in this issue dealing with national service, and the suggestions made by the Divisional Commissioner in his special message.

ROVERS IN SPECIALISED UNITS.

In view of their training in Scouting, Rovers are especially fitted to serve in such specialised Active Citizen Force units as the Signallers, Ambulance Corps, Artillery, Engineers and motor transport, and it is suggested that wherever possible they join these units in groups.

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS WITH DEFENCE AUTHORITIES

Arrangements have been made with the defence authorities that Rovers joining any unit en masse will be kept together. This is the opportunity for which Rovers have been waiting. You are now in a position to serve your country together.

ROVERS WHO ARE ALSO SCOUTERS.

The Divisional Commissioner has stated that Scouters, when volunteering for service in the A.C.F., should ensure that their groups are in a position to carry on efficiently should they be called away.

MEETINGS FOR ORGANISATION PURPOSES.

Meetings will be held at the following centres to organise Rovers into volunteer units. It is confidently anticipated that Crews will cancel all other arrangements in order to turn out in full force to the organisation meetings:-

Johannesburg and Southern Transvaal Crews :-

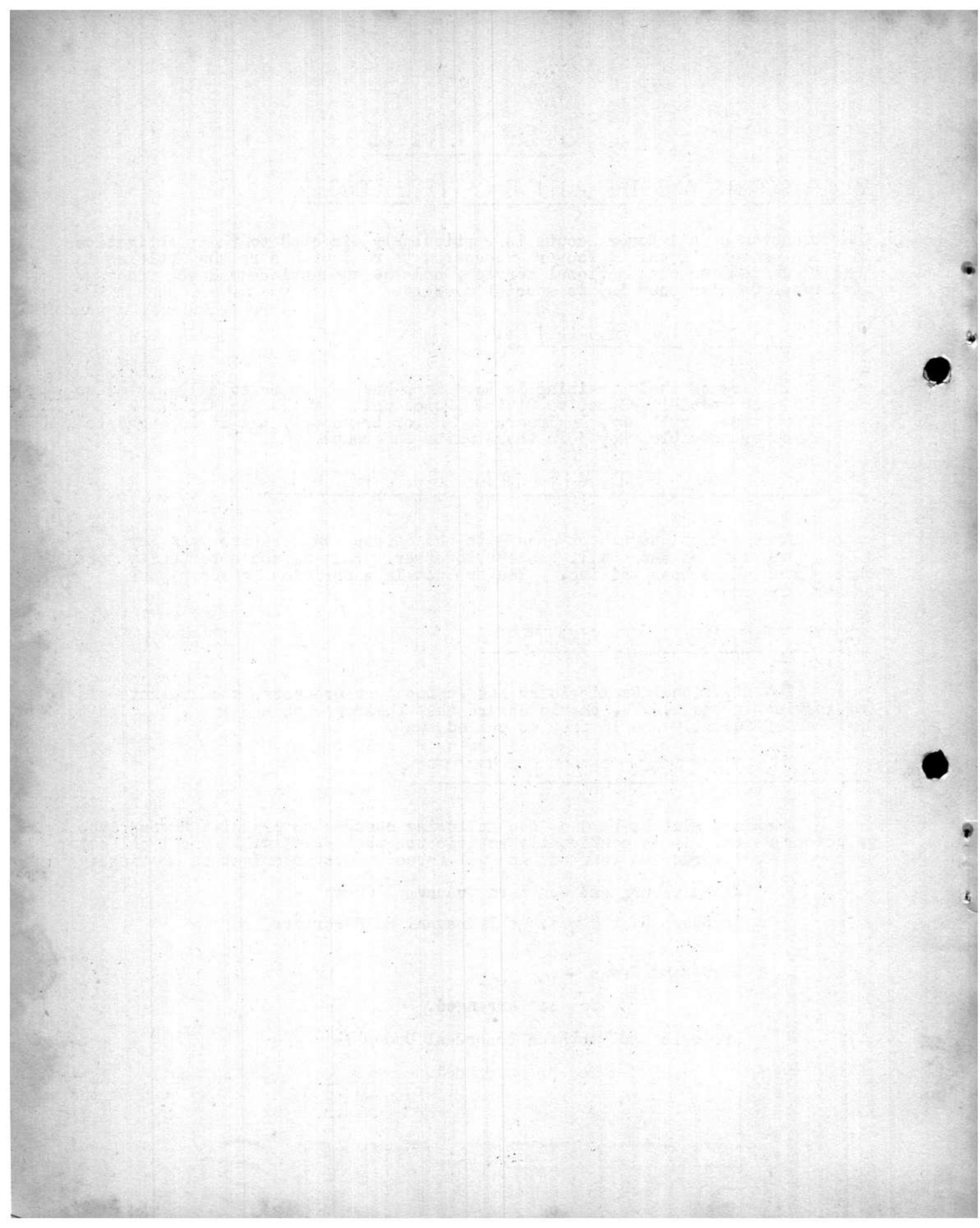
October 23 at 8 p.m. at Transvaal Headquarters

East Rand Crews :-

To be arranged.

Pretoria and Northern Transvaal Crews :-

To be arranged.



WHAT ROVER SCOUTS CAN DO IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.

A Message from the Divisional Commissioner.

I am told that many Rover Scouts are asking the question "Now there's a war on what are we to do?", and I have been requested to try and answer it.

Let me remind you first that this is a war for freedom - freedom of thought, of speech, of action, of conscience and that, as Lord Baldwin once put it, the freedom of the common man in this country is in jeopardy because the common man in other countries has been deprived of freedom.

We in South Africa have enjoyed the blessings of freedom for so long that we are perhaps rather inclined to take them as a matter of course. But let us remember that our ancestors, British, Dutch and Huguenot, fought and suffered for freedom in centuries gone by and that because we have inherited the privileges they secured for us - counting not the cost - it is an obligation on us to do what we can to ensure that the freedom they won shall be passed on unimpaired to those who will follow us.

There is no immediate call for us in South Africa to take our place in the fighting line but we never know when it may become necessary to take action to help to defend and protect, not the material interests of South Africa but the freedom of humanity, and it behoves us, therefore, to live up to our motto and "Be Prepared".

Here are some things Rovers can do now and which, whether, any call is made on you or not, will be for the benefit of your country:-

1. Your first duty, at the moment, is still to establish yourselves in life, to fit yourselves for the responsibilities of citizenship so that you may play a worthy part in the constructive work which will require to be done when the war is over.
2. Answer the appeals made by the Active Citizen Force for Volunteers -
 - a. To bring the numbers of existing units up to full strength - whether you belong to A or B reserve.
 - b. To undergo special courses of training in order to qualify for certain branches of the Force.
3. Take whatever steps you can to increase your efficiency in any direction which is likely to be of use in the event of your services being required either for the defence of South Africa or for an expeditionary force, e.g. Marksmanship, knowledge of motor cycles and motor vehicles, signalling, First Aid.
4. Put your name down for National Service if you have not already done so and, if you live in Johannesburg, for the Civic Guard.
5. Qualify for our own Movement's National Service Badge.
6. If you are a Scouter, carry on your work and if possible devote more care and more thought to it. Remember the future belongs to youth and it is the youth of today who, as the men of tomorrow, will have the task of helping to build up a better world than we seem likely to hand over to them; they will not be able to give effective help unless they are good citizens and your work in training the rising generation is of national importance.
7. If you are not a Scouter, offer your services as one when you are old enough and meanwhile qualify yourself for the position and while doing so try to help the Movement in some other way, say as instructor or examiner.
8. Be tolerant. Remember that one of the aims of our Movement is to promote goodwill among men. Be careful, therefore, not to indulge in unfriendly arguments with those who do not think as you do or in harsh criticisms of the conduct of those who do not act as you think they should.

Ours is a disunited country at present and without unity there cannot be strength - Goodwill will do much to bring about the unity we all desire - and the force of personal example is potent.

9. Carry on - steadfastly, quietly and calmly - and be ready if a call should come, to answer it wholeheartedly, with a high courage and a determination to do your duty in accordance with your Scout Promise and the Scout Law.

To sum up, the duty of a Rover is no different from that of any other citizen, but because you are Rovers you perhaps have a keener appreciation of what duty to God, to King and to country implies. Keep the spirit of Scouting alive, therefore, and help others to realise their duty to their fellows by setting an example in your own conduct. Your motto is "Service" and service is an attitude of mind which expresses itself in your every day actions.

P. WHITELEY

Divisional Commissioner

A GOLD MINE.

I was reminded recently that our chief D/C Hogg will soon return from Overseas (The exact date by the way, is uncertain due to the war) Very soon I shall have to give an account of my stewardship, and thanks to the co-operation of all concerned I will be able to face the ordeal calmly and cheerfully.

While doing my daily job, which is in connection with goldmining, it has struck me that the Rover problem is very similar to that facing those who have to take over a badly neglected gold-mining proposition. You and I brother Rovers, have tackled this problem either as Directors, Consultants or on the staff. Whatever success is granted us will benefit our shareholders and the country at large.

Our first job has been to "prove the property". We can say that, working from existing shafts development has been carried out in the Central, East Rand and Pretoria areas. The values disclosed have far exceeded expectations and we are definitely resolved to carry on. Gold has been found in most unexpected places and the values are remarkably high. Our first concern has been to create an organisation to meet the work that faces us. We have been able, due to the enthusiasm of men from all areas, to build up an organisation that promises great things, while at the same time we have continued with exploration and development.

To those who still adopt a pessimistic view we would point out that nothing lasting is done in a hurry. As yet our dividends have been small but the future is very bright. Only by sound management, a level-headed policy and plenty of hard work

can we convince the public that Roving is a sound investment. The time for grumbling is over. Let us all save our breath for the work that lies ahead. We may have rock falls, or pressure bursts. We may strike water or bad-ground. The hanging may fall, but the mine is going on.

We have proved that there's paying gold in Roving!!

It seems as though the war is going to curtail somewhat our activities in Roving. It is only to be expected that Rovers being the stout fellows they are, many will be joining the A.C.F. in response to the recent appeal. Good luck to them!! The Movement will go on as best as possible and when peace comes we'll make things hum.

NIM.

"Cobber, it's up to me and you
To see that half his dreams come true"

It was a sunny day. The trees were laden with the first blossoms, the new grass was peeping shyly out at the glorious weather, flowers bloomed, bees hummed and all nature rejoiced in the joy of living.

Then the wireless brought the whole world to No.10 Downing Street and an old man his voice broken, his hopes shattered, told that Britain was at war.

The blossom withered, the grass wilted, spring turned to winter - all that had been summer and the birth of a new spring had vanished - Britain was at war.

Pledged to her word bound by her honour, standing for Peace and Freedom, that little island had, after many weary months of striving and bargaining for the priceless heritage of all men, thrown herself into a struggle the end of which no one can foresee.

Evil, aggression, brute force, faithlessness, persecution endangered Man - the pledged word and signed treaty were but sops to soothe, and lull into security, small nations were threatened - and all through the greed and selfish aggrandisement of a creed which had whipped Germany and her millions into ignorance and submission.

Twenty five years ago in that same room in Downing Street Lord Grey of Falloden bent and weary - watched the lights of Europe go out. God help us "he breathed, for I fear we shall never see them lit again". The lights are out again - Europe is in turmoil, thousands face death, thousands will die, thousands of hearts will die with them. It seems all so hopeless - so tiring and hopeless.

Rovers - the Scottish Moot bound 42 Nations together - it can't be hopeless, The dogs of war are unloosed and until they have been chained all are in danger. Let us each and everyone do our bit, play our part in what is the most serious event of our age - your King, your Country will call you when you are needed - till then calmness and sanity must prevail, law and order must be upheld. Rumours must be quelled, racialism in all it's forms should not be allowed to destroy and prejudice hearts and minds.

So until you are called on serve in all these ways and in so serving make easier the task of those who steer the ship of state. Remember they also serve their country well who only stand and wait. Union is strength and it is only by uniting in Truth and Justice that we can carry on - let us keep on carrying on.

"ONLOOKER".

Read this! —

It's Important!

3 R D T R A N S V A A L R O V E R I N D A B A

It has been decided to hold the 3rd Transvaal Rover Indaba at the Van Ryn Estates, Benoni, over the weekend November 18 to 19. War or no war, it's going to be held, and it is expected that every Crew in the Transvaal will be represented. Rovering in the Division is going ahead, and this is the time to consolidate what has been done in the past year and make plans for the year that is coming.

Benoni has been chosen as the venue as it is easily accessible from all quarters. Last year the Indaba was held at Bronkhorstspuit, to the North, and the first Big Indaba was at Boskop, to the west. So we've had a turn all round.

All Crews will be circularised as soon as details of the Indaba have been arranged, and full particulars for finding the campsite will be included. The Programme will include practical and discussion sessions, and every Crew attending will be expected to provide some sort of campfire item on the Saturday night.

Reserve this weekend for a good show.

CYCLING DOWN ENGLAND WITH AN INTERNATIONAL PATROL.

(Final World Rover Moot Article)

Dear Brother Rovers,

My last letter came to you from Edinburgh where we had gone for a two day visit at the conclusion of the Moot. The Moot was finished, certainly, but the fun and the brotherhood of the gathering were to continue for another two weeks for myself and three foreign Rovers who undertook one of the craziest cycle tours ever planned. Jan van Ingen and Rutger van Basten Bartenburg, both of Holland, Janusz Grabinski of Poland and I set off from Edinburgh intending to cycle to London.

We had only met for the first time at the Moot, and none of us could speak the other's language properly. But Janusz had some English, and with English, Afrikaans and waving of hands we others made ourselves understood. By the end of the trip we had got so used to each other that conversation was as easy as in perfect English.

We followed a route roughly down the west coast of the British Isles. From Edinburgh we went to Melrose and Sir Walter Scott's country; from there to the Lake District; south to Lancaster and to Blackpool for the Sunday of Bank Holiday weekend; then to Southport, Preston, Liverpool, the Mersey Tunnel, Birkenhead, Chester, Newport, Oxford Windsor and London. Altogether we took fourteen days for the trip of just over 500 miles. This is accounted very easy going in England, as the roads are so good, but we were in no hurry, and preferred to take our time, see the country, and get to know the people.

We seemed to take the spirit of the Moot with us, and whenever possible we stayed with the local Rovers or Scouts. On the whole the weather was bad, rain falling on nine of the fourteen days, but we developed the complete tramp's mentality, and did not worry in the slightest where we were going to spend the night. It was not always possible to camp, owing to the wet, and when we were not able to get accommodation in the local Scouthall we just took anything that was going. Sometimes we stayed in youth hostels, other times we cadged accommodation in barns, and in one place we actually found the local Rover Leader ran a pub. That was in Newport, Shropshire, and R.S.L. Eastwood reckons his pub is the best way of keeping a good Crew together. He gave us shelter for the night, and as usual his Crew pitched up for a pint and a game of darts. When the public left at ten (which is the ridiculous hour they close over there) we took over until one, and had quite a bit of a party.

The craziest place we ever stayed in was near Birkenhead. We had put in a big run from Southport to Liverpool and through the Mersey tunnel, and when we got to Birkenhead it was already getting dark. At 10 o'clock we were still in the town, and could find no place to erect our tents. On the left-hand side of the road was some sort of big private park or estate, so we decided to take a chance. We slipped through the fence and put up the tents at what we considered a safe distance, intending to wake early and steal away like the gypsies, but we were so tired that we slept until 9.30, and awoke to find ourselves only about fifty yards from the road, with a lot of curious people staring at us over the fence. It did not take us long to vacate that camp site.

We had only three punctures on the trip - all three of them happening to Jan. He had two the first day of the trip and one the last day coming in to London. We had only one accident, but that nearly finished the whole trip altogether. It happened on the very first day, coming down the last hill into Melrose. We are still not quite certain what happened, but suddenly Janusz was flying through the air, with his bike a twisted mess on the ground, while we were dodging for all we were worth to avoid running him down. His bike was completely wrecked - we only got 10s for the bits, - and he sustained some nasty grazes on his forearms. But in a way the accident turned out to be a blessing in disguise, because while carrying the wreckage to our campsite on an old Roman camp called Trimontium we were met by some very decent local people who insisted

on helping us. Not only did they take Janusz home, dress his wounds, and insist on taking him over to Galashiels next morning to buy a new bike, but they took us all out in cars in the afternoon for a tour of Sir Walter Scott's country, and finished up at their home for late supper in the evening. Next morning they took us to Abbotsford, and it was not until after lunch that we could get away.

Their attitude was absolutely typical of the kindness we received all the way, and particularly in the north. If the people we met had had their way we would have been two months on our tour instead of two weeks.

We had two very good climbs while on the tour. One was actually during the Moot, when 200 of us climbed Ben Nevis, the highest mountain in Great Britain. I still don't know what the guides thought they were doing, but they took 200 completely inexperienced fellows up one of the most difficult routes. As was to be expected, some ass started an avalanche rolling, and one of the fellows had his leg badly injured by a flying boulder. We had to make a stretcher from thumbsticks and carry him up the last scree and down the other side. It took six of us to carry the stretcher and another six to prevent us from falling. Up the steep parts we had to be pulled up by chains of fellows, and when we finally got the fellow to a car on the other side, it was only to discover that we had to walk eight miles along an appalling road to the town where the buses were waiting. We left camp at five in the morning, and arrived back again at three thirty next day. The story of the rescue had got about by then, and the Press johnnies were waiting for us with cameras and all the rest to get the big story. We were quite in the news for a little while. It was a thrilling experience, but one which I am not particularly keen to repeat.

Our other climb was in the Lake District when we went up Great Gable, the second highest mountain in England. Jan van Ingen got lost in the mist, but being a level headed guy and having a map in his possession he got down safely again on his own.

Well chaps, I could go on writing in this strain indefinitely about the many wonderful events of this trip. I could write a special chapter about the voyage home after war had been declared, and the effects of perpetual tension on the nerves of a crowded boat-load of passengers. But I have tried without writing a tedious traveller's log of my journey to give you an impression of the crazy happy adventure I have enjoyed. You'll probably hear about the things I have not had space to describe until you are sick of the sound of the words World Rover Moot.

My only regret was that a vast country like South Africa had to be represented by only four fellows. I often wished I could have had a lot of you with me. And if talking and writing about this Moot is going to be of any use in persuading more of you to take the chance and come along to the next Moot in four years' time, it's talking and writing you are going to get. This Moot has been the biggest and most stimulating tonic my Scouting enthusiasm has ever had, and it shall be my earnest endeavour to get more of you along next time for a dose of the same medicine.

Yours in Rovering,

C.Llewellyn Cook.

EDITOR.

ROVER SCOUT NATIONAL SERVICE

Blood Transfusion.

On examining the Rover Scout National Service Forms one is astonished to find how few Rovers are donating blood as a job of service.

The Rand Blood Transfusion Service has about 980 donors in Johannesburg; its Branches along the Reef and districts to which the Rover Scouts contribute 21, which you will agree is a very poor show.

Recently Doctors have been relying on the service more and more to save patients lives, prepare them for serious operations and tide them over critical periods, with the result that the demand is rapidly overhauling the supply.

As a result of the present state of world affairs, blood is going to be at a premium in saving the dying, maimed and wounded. It is, therefore, up to everyone of us, young or old, to answer this call of National Service.

How do we set about it?

In this copy of Veld Trails you will find a number of Enrolment Forms. If you are not already a donor fill one in immediately and return it to Scout Headquarters, who will in turn collect and hand them on to the Rand Blood Transfusion Service. Do not restrict your efforts only to Rovers and Scouters in your own Group and District, but get your people at home and your pals at work to fill in forms as well.

Further forms may be had from Scout Headquarters or on application to:-

The Rand Blood Transfusion Service,
3, Ursula Mansions,
Klein Street,
JOHANNESBURG.

Phone 44-2144 (Day & Night Service)

An interesting point about Blood Transfusion is that a woman's blood is every bit as good as a man's, and can be transfused into a male with equal success, so rope in all your lady friends as we will need them more than ever in the event of us being called away.

Having sent in your form, you then have to wait until you receive a notification asking you to present yourself at the "Blood Office" for a Medical examination.

Before a person is accepted as a donor he is required to undergo a general physical examination to ensure that he is not suffering from disease, and is physically fit to give blood. This does not mean to say that one has to be a "Tromp Van Digglen" by any means. A specimen of your blood is taken for the determination of your blood group, and for the Wasserman reaction.

Those of you who for any reason are found not to be suitable for donating blood to the sick, become "Research Donors", and are called upon for donating blood from time to time for scientific and research purposes. Active donors have to be re-tested every six months, which is as good as a free medical examination.

There are four main groups -

Group "O" (or Universal Donors); Group "A"; Group "B"; and Group "AB". The above grouping has nothing to do with the quality or relationship to disease of one's

blood, but is merely a manifestation of one's heredity. The determination of the group to which a donor belongs consists in the "mixability" of the donor's blood with that of other people.

Those people who belong to Group "O" can, generally speaking, give blood to anyone, but can only receive blood from members of their own group.

Those people belonging to Group "A" can give blood to people of Groups "A" and "AB" and can receive blood from Groups "O" and "A". Similarly Group "B" can give blood to "A" or "AB" and can receive blood from Groups "O" and "B".

The people of the Group "AB" can give blood only to people of Group "AB", but they can receive blood from people of any Group.

As there are rare exceptions to the above rules it is essential that prior to a transfusion, a drop or two of the donor's blood should be mixed with that of the patient's to determine whether or not they are compatible or mix freely.

The finger or the lobe of the ear is usually pricked to obtain the couple of drops of blood required for the "compat" test, which in the case of Johannesburg donors is conducted in the "Blood Office", just opposite the Hospital.

On receiving a call by phone, a Johannesburg donor proceeds usually to the Blood Office. If one has no form of transport a taxi picks you up at your door and takes you back to work or your home.

Most transfusions today are of the "Indirect Method".

The operator, who is a qualified and experienced Doctor, asks you to take off your coat, roll up your sleeve and sit down at a table. A tourniquet is then applied to your arm above the elbow, the pressure being adjusted and recorded on a mercury gauge of the barometer type.

The operator then inserts a sterile hypodermic needle into a vein at the elbow joint, and the blood runs through rubber tubing into a sterile graduated glass flask called a vacolitre. Sodium Citrate or a solution of normal saline is added to your blood to prevent clotting.

When the required amount of blood has been obtained, the needle and tourniquet are removed, a small wad of cotton wool placed on the puncture, and the arm bent for a minute or two. Your part of the job is over. The blood is then taken to the patient where the reverse takes place, the blood gravitating into the recipient's arm.

Liquid refreshment may be had by the donor during or after the transfusion if required.

No donor is allowed, under the rules of the Service, to give more than 500 ccs. (just under a pint) or to be called more frequently than once every two months.

Most of the donors feel no ill effects during or after the transfusion. Some of them feel a bit queer, as it is not everybody that is suited to giving blood, but except for a slight tired feeling which may last for a few hours, no other ill effects are to be expected.

Medical authorities all agree that the amount of blood given is made up in a matter of a few days, and that provided blood is not given too frequently, does not in any way endanger the donor's health.

When the service first commenced there were complaints from some of the donors as to the methods adopted, and the amount of time wasted, but I can assure prospective and past donors that this has been improved tremendously, and that every consideration possible is given to the donor to ensure a quick and comfortable transfusion.

This is the first appeal that has been made to Rovers as an individual form of National Service, and considering how little the individual is inconvenienced, I feel it is an appeal that we should do all in our power to answer, as we have no idea of the lives we are capable of saving, and the health and happiness that we will be restoring in the lives of so many of our fellow human beings.

KEN JONES.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH SCOUTING?

NOTE.

The article printed below contains a few thought-provoking criticisms of the Movement in the Transvaal and South Africa generally. Contrary to our general rule, it has been allowed to appear unsigned as it is intended to start a train of thought, and no more. Although Veld Trails does not commit itself to any of the opinions expressed in this article, correspondence (signed) on the subject would be welcome.

LET'S SHAKE UP SCOUTING.

I have lately been reading a most interesting report of the Boy Scouts of America from which I have gleaned some most useful information. It reveals the meticulous care with which the boyhood of America is watched and trained. This little handbook has given me a new aspect of Scouting in the world today, and I cannot help feeling that we in South Africa are not doing all we ought to bring the boys under the beneficent influence of B.P.'s wonderful inspiration.

We have, in the past, confined ourselves to the narrow Province of our own district or division. This is one of the main causes which have contributed to our failure. Yes, I maintain that we have failed to put Scouting across. Having recourse to statistics, we find that the Scout Movement has approximately one per cent of the available South African youth under its banner. We should be ashamed of this fact. After over thirty years of work, under admittedly trying circumstances and in the face of prejudice, we can only say that we have touched the outer fringe of South African boyhood. Thousands of boys still grow up under the binding prejudices which are the curse of South Africa and the enemy of unity. The broadening influence of the Boy Scouts has not been exerted on them. Can we blame them? We, the supposedly enlightened men, have failed to pass on our knowledge.

But instead of dwelling on past failures, let us find out how we can prevent this state of affairs from continuing. Let us examine the position frankly and see how we can fill the gaps so long allowed to remain unfilled.

It is my considered opinion that we must work primarily for National unity in the Movement. Public support is the life blood of a movement such as ours. Without it, we can never hope to triumph. How, then can we get this necessary support?

When a new product is brought on to the market, advertising plays the paramount role in bringing it to the home of the individual. Taking a leaf from the producers book, then, we must produce the goods. Scouting has been more or less a hidden movement up to now. Let us bring our wares out into the open. Rallies, Concerts, Jamborees, concerted good turns in uniform, these will bring us to the notice of the public. Let us appoint a publicity agent. Publicity and more Publicity must be his

notto. Adopt the old maxim "bait a spratt to catch a mackerel". Sweep away the conservatism which pervades us like a suffocating cloak. Adopt every means which will put us further on the map. No isolated spurt will bring the desired effect, it must be done on a National scale. There is no need to expand on this theme. It takes very little imagination to visualise the stunts which will catch the public eye.

An excuse for the paucity of numbers is made by many who say that we have not enough men to lead. This excuse is not only short sighted, but wholly irrelevant. With the hour comes the man. Give us the boys, and the leaders will turn up. In the area in which I run a troop, there is scope for at least four more troops. I hope to persuade the D.C. to allow me to expand. I am confident that, although I am at present the sole officer in the troop, new men will come forward if I show that they are needed. Scouting must become an institution in every home. That is the job of the individual Scouter.

The last sentence of the above becomes the text of this one. Scouters are too prone to say that they have not sufficient time to put these points into operation. But Scouting is a full spare time job. A man who goes in for Scouting should be expected to give all his available time to it. This may sound rather fanatical, but it is the only way in which we can get real results. Returning to the American report, I would like to mention that there the officials are full time men paid by the Scout Association. They are all specialists in their work. They are required to undergo training and to pass examinations before they are entrusted with the welfare of the boy. This brings real results. They have a membership of over one million in the U.S.A. This figure on a percentage basis is better even than that for the British Isles, the home of Scouting. But the real reason for this progress in America is the fact that they are a comparatively young nation and are not bound by the prejudices and conservatisms which are strangling the originality of the older countries. But we are a young country, and should follow suit.

I could continue on this subject indefinitely, but I do not think that it would serve any purpose. I will leave the subject here then, and perhaps some abler pen than mine will carry on the good work. It is a matter which could well be discussed at the Rover Council and at Crew meetings. Perhaps we may get some action there. But it certainly does rest with us younger fellows to shake up the ideas of our elder brothers.

The Treasurer acknowledges the following Crew levy

Hart's Own

.....

5/-

THIS MONTH'S BOOK REVIEW

BADEN! POWELL.

by R. H. KIERNAN

This is a well-informed and succinct biography of the Chief Scout by an experienced Birmingham history master. The tale of B.P.'s two lives - one as a distinguished soldier and one, equally distinguished, as founder of the world's greatest Movement for the youth of the world - is a familiar one to all Scouts. But at times it is all too evident that many Scouts and Scouters have but a hazy general impression of the Chief's career. They have all heard of Mafeking and the South African War - but how much do they know about it.

This book gives an admirable record of the military career of the Chief, one that will be read with interest and pleasure by Scouts. The thrilling adventures that B.P. had as a soldier, his even more thrilling adventures when engaged on espionage work as a military scout and spy - all these make good reading.

This picture of B.P. as a soldier, scout and spy is skilfully matched with the picture of a remarkable man with remarkable artistic talents. B.P. is not only a gifted painter and a writer who knows his craft, but a sculptor and stage artist. The book gives so many interesting sidelights on B.P.'s career that it recommends itself to all Scouts. It is a book for Group libraries and for presentation.

The latter part of the book, dealing with B.P. and the growth of the Scout Movement, is somewhat disappointing in comparison with the earlier chapters. Possibly this is because so much can be written about the Scout Movement.

I have no hesitation in recommending Mr. Kiernan's study to all Scouts and Scouters for their early attention.

KNOTS, SPLICES AND FANCY WORK.

by SPENCER.

This admirable and wholly delightful book has now gone through three editions, and the present one is a considerable enlargement on previous issues. There must be descriptions of nearly 300 bends, hitches, and rope ornaments, most of them with very clear illustrations, and I don't know a better book dealing with the fascinating subject of rope work.

"FLYLEAF"

A THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH.

"EVERY CREW IS AS GREAT AS THOSE WHO COMPOSE IT
AND IT CAN BE NO GREATER THAN THEY".

CREW FLASHES

2nd Crown Mines.

During September the Crew spent two evenings heatedly discussing the proposed Rover Re-organisation, and finally decided that it was a sound scheme, but liable to strike one or two snags. Out doors, we spent a week-end at Concordia, our group camp-site, and managed to put in a fair amount of work.

At our last meeting, it was decided to adjourn our normal evening meetings, until such time as the international situation returns to normal, and concentrate on Scouting instruction in the District. It was felt that this is probably the best way in which we can render service, taking into consideration the fact that the times are not normal.

We intend to carry on with
give you further news next month.

Crew camps and outings, etc., and will be able to

H.V.G.
Scribe.

1st Bellevue

These fermenting times have had a disturbing effect on the Crew. Those members who have attended find it difficult to concentrate on the work in hand.

Attendances have been poor but we hope with warmer weather in the offing these will improve.

The N.S. Badge still attracts us and we are working on 1st Aid and Signalling. We are on the point of drawing a large map of our district as an incentive to learn more of the part of town to which we belong.

We had a burglary at the Den last month and our Ceremonial Sword amongst other things were stolen.

As this was a very fine piece of work - the blade was beautifully chased - we resent the theft very much.

C.L. Cook.

1st Orange Grove

The most important event of the month was the Annual General Meeting of the Group, which was held on the 25th of August. The Crew managed to cook up a fairly satisfactory report and also put on an item which caused quite a lot of amusement.

Apart from this we have done nothing spectacular but are still carrying on steadily. On the 20th of this month we attended Norwood Crew's Beetle drive. This turned out to be a jolly good show and definitely one of the best inter-crew visits we have made. The information provided in this journal a few months back gave us a good grounding for some skillful cheating but in spite of this none of us managed to come out anywhere near the top.

1st Norwood.

We're young, but still we're kicking. Membership remains at a steady ten, and we have been meeting regularly. The cold weather drove us from the Rover Mate's garage last month to the sanctuary of the Scout Hall, but we hope to get along with the building of our Den on the group property very shortly. At the moment we are running monthly functions to raise funds, which will be devoted to some suitable charity at Christmas time.

See you all at the Indaba next month.....

D. Dowlo.
Scribe.

VELD TRAILS EAST RAND SECTION

Some time ago it was suggested that an East Rand section in Veld Trails would be appreciated by that section of Transvaal Rovering. The idea was a splendid one in theory - in practice it remained an idea. Eventually, however, circumstances took a hand in the destinies of certain persons and a committee was at hand ready to get on with the scheme.

The main purpose of such a section is that East Rand Crews will have a local interest in the magazine and that more and better co-operation amongst these crews will result. It is a sorry fact that each crew on the East Rand regards itself as being aloof from its neighbours and such feelings will not help on Rovering and all its issues and side-issues on the East Rand.

The East Rand has crews which were they but combined under the true brotherly idea of Rovering, would make other centres sit up and take notice.

The Editor of Veld Trails is willing to come out and listen to your opinions and suggestions and at the same time tell you something of the Rover Moot in Scotland, which great gathering he attended. The Transvaal Rover Committee would welcome any suggestions coming from the East Rand for it is felt that without their support Transvaal Rovering would lose much.

I therefore appeal to all East Rand crews to co-operate and help set East Rand Rovering on the sound footing it should have. Put your ideas into print, let your neighbours know your views, and make Rovering a real live thing here. We've got the material - Springs, Brakpan, Benoni, Boksburg, Germiston - let's get to work and produce first-class results.

All correspondence on this matter to be addressed to A.I. Robertson,
140, Harpur Avenue,
BENONI.

SCOTLAND'S A' RICHT!

It is said that in certain parts of Scotland the superstition still lingers that it is unlucky to be the thirteenth to light a cigarette from the one match. Talking about cigarettes did you know that Abardonians don't smoke cork-tipped cigarettes. They dislike the taste of burnt cork. Incidentally a tobacco warehouse in Scotland caught fire a few weeks ago. There was a large crowd of inhalers.

I met Jock MacTavish the other day looking mighty pleased with himself. Says I "Wool, Jock, whit are ye lookin' sae pleased aboot?", "Mon, Sandy" he says, "I've just heard the price o' petrol has been reduced." "But you havna' got a car, Jock" "ha, na," he smiled, "but I've got a petrol lighter".

He's a close friend of mine is Jock, very close.

His sister is a fine woman but she's mad on dieting. She went on a starvation diet last week and twenty Scotsman proposed to her.

You know Jock's learning Braille so that he can read in bed without burning the lights.

It's in times like the present that Scotsmen come to the fore and show the country how to economise. Donald he's my brother, went into Thrupp's yesterday and asked for a pound of butter wrapped up in that day's Daily Mail. D'you know Donald has threatened the Daily Mail that unless they stop publishing jokes about Scotsmen he won't borrow their paper any more.

And finally I know a Scotsman who is putting off buying an atlas until world affairs look more settled. Wise man.

TO A LITTER LOUT.

The following lines, which appeared in the Manchester Guardian a few years ago, might well be exhibited at campsites which Rovers have to share with members of the public. We won't say for which body of campers the reproof is intended:-

Why dost t'a throw thi rubbish here,
Tha mucky lout?
Tha drinks thi beer
And throws all t'bottles hereabout;
Tha ate's thi grub
And leaves all t'paper lyin' here.
Hest t'a noa gumption?

Man canna scrub
The floors of moors and hills,
Hest t'a noa sense,
With all thi towney frills.

SCOUT NEWS FROM OVERSEA.

ENGLAND.

"Be Prepared" is the motto of all Boy Scouts, and if an emergency arises Scouts everywhere are ready to undertake service for their country and their fellow citizens.

In addition to their normal activities, Scouts have been training during the past months to assist local authorities in A.R.P. schemes, and there has been a remarkable response by Scouts to the National Services Badge which was introduced in the Spring of this year.

Apart from work in connection with A.R.P. Scouts are also trained to assist with coastguard work if required, and to assist the Police and Fire Brigade in messenger work. Scouts will also co-operate with other National Services.

AUSTRALIA.

Growing enthusiasm for Scouting in New South Wales is revealed by the excellent increase in the Scout census there. New Troops are being started and many Scouts travel long distances to attend Troop meetings.

Scouters are playing their part magnificently, too. One lady Cub-master at Lockhart cycles 28 miles regularly each week to take her Pack meeting, over "bush roads" considered too bad for any kind of traffic.

Six Patrol leaders from Walgett are cycling to Narrabri, a distance of 114 miles, in order to attend a Patrol Leaders' Training Course there from August 31st to September 4th next. When the course is over they will cycle back home with the same cheery enthusiasm for Scouting and what it means to them in their everyday life.

Distance and inaccessibility are certainly no obstacles to Scouting in New South Wales.

BURMA.

We understand that the Kalutara Scout Colony is to be the model of a similar institution in Burma.

The Kalutara Scout Colony is now world famous for its provision of practical agricultural education for the Scouts of Ceylon. It covers more than fifty acres, all of which are farmed by the boys themselves under expert supervision.

Thirty acres will be set aside in Upper Burma for a similar purpose.

Excellent social service has been rendered by Scouts in Upper Burma throughout this summer. They have taken up responsible work in assisting the Royal Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, helping to control crowds, assisting in traffic supervision and looking after orphan boys.

At all times they have kept a careful watch on animal drinking troughs in Mandalay, cleaning them regularly and filling with fresh water whenever required.

They have also attended regular first-aid courses and dealt with over a hundred cases of sunstroke. In addition they distributed anti-plague pamphlets in all affected areas.

Other Scouts have spent the summer studying village problems and equipping themselves to help in horticulture, arboriculture and forestry work. Still more Scouts have been trained in veterinary first aid, for service work in rural areas.

So Scouts of Upper Burma, like their brother Scouts in all parts of the world, continue to do their Good Turns for the community.

GOLD COAST.

Two hundred Gold Coast Scouts have just completed an excellent training course in National Service work, under the leadership of their own Scouters.

The course took the form of a special one-week camp, organised like any other Scout camp, but in which all the training had some bearing on National Service.

Scouts made reports of "occurrences" and "accidents," using verbal relays, solo messenger services, and the use of the telephone and telegraph. Through the courtesy of the Postmaster-General the camp was equipped with a special telephone installation. Mimic "panics" were staged, crowds were controlled, old, blind, and crippled people and children needing assistance were all helped efficiently and quickly. First Aid work and signalling practice were also features of the training camp and the boys kept special notebooks.

Bicycles were available so that boys should be tested in good riding, observance of the Highway Code, road courtesy and carrying messages. Map-reading and map-making found their way into the training and tests were made in the interpretation of every language spoken on the Gold Coast.

Gold Coast Scouts are confident that they have done their utmost to live up to the Scouts motto of "Be Prepared." Like their brother Scouts in all parts of the Empire, they have quickly made themselves of first-class national value in case of any emergency.

SOUTH AFRICAN MAYOR'S NATIONAL FUND.

Crews are wondering if and how they can organise functions for the above Fund. The following information will help.

- (1) Authority for the function must first be obtained from the Fund-Committee:-

Address:- Hon.Sec. S.A.Mayor's National Fund

City Hall,

JOHANNESBURG.

- (2) Tickets, pamphlets etc., must state function is being held by permission of the Fund Committee.
- (3) Certified statement of Revenue and Expenditure must be sent in with the proceeds of the function.

- (4) Details of the type of function it is proposed to hold must be sent in when Authority is sought.

An excellent lead is being given by some Rovers who are going to give personal monthly subscriptions. This will no doubt be followed by all of us.

WHO'S WHO ON THE TRANSVAAL ROVER SCOUT COMMITTEE.

A/D/C A. Nimmo,
Chairman T.R.S.C.

V.C. Goodwin,
Secretary, T.R.S.C.

Claude L. Cook,
Editor "Veld Trails"

John Greenhorn,
Treasurer, T.R.S.C.
Business Manager,
"Veld Trails".

J. Armstrong,
Comptroller, Rover National Service Register

All correspondence to any of the above should be addressed c/o P.O. Box 631,
JOHANNESBURG.

Contributions to "Veld Trails" should be sent to the same address.

Figure 1

20

* = 0.79% of biomass

[illegible]